

BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

John M. Brown, Jr.
Chairman

Russell J. Anzalone
Secretary



Robbyn Tumey
Member

Kim Dennison
Election Coordinator

Office (479) 271-1049 - Fax (479) 271-5749
kmdennison@co.benton.ar.us or srose@co.benton.ar.us

MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

July 18, 2012

Commission members present: John Brown, Jr., Robbyn Tumey, and Russell Anzalone

Others present: Tena O'Brien, Kim Dennison, Sharon Rose, Jim Hall, and Glenn Kelley

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Daily Record

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 1:10 P.M. and welcomed everyone.

New Business:

- A. Approval of a Resolution to divide NWACC District into nine (9) single-member zones: Chairman Brown introduced Mr. Jim Hall, Executive Director for Union Government Relations at Northwest Arkansas Community College. Mr. Hall introduced Glen Kelly, Attorney for Northwest Arkansas Community College. Mr. Hall reported that on Saturday, July 14, 2012, he and Mr. Kelly asked the Board of Trustees to consider and approve a resolution and map changing the College Board members from school districts into zones. Mr. Hall explained that in the past the Board of Trustees have been elected based on the population, six (6) members from Rogers and three (3) members from Bentonville school districts and that because of the new 2010 Census and the population growth in Bentonville and Bella Vista, it is necessary to go to a 5/4 split. Attorney Glen Kelly explained that the Board of Trustees is responsible to look into the necessity of a 5/4 split and to look into each decennial census to confirm that there has been a ten percent (10%) or greater minority population shift. The districts that have a ten percent (10%) or greater minority population means that the community college board would require the members to be elected by zones. Attorney Kelly stated that the college checked with the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, County Clerk Tena O'Brien, County Attorney George Spence, and State Representative Mary Lou Slinkard about the changes and that he also obtained an Attorney General's opinion to verify the results. Commissioner Anzalone asked Mr. Kelly if the new zones reflect the minority population in the district as a whole. Mr. Kelly responded that the district has a Hispanic population that represents about seventeen percent (17%) of the district's population. Mr. Hall stated that the Hispanic population varies from zone to zone and the Hispanic population in Zones 5, 7, and 8 range between twenty-eight (28%) and thirty-four percent (34%). Commissioner Tumey asked Mr. Kelly if there is seventy percent (70%) minority in the county. She stated that the only way the minority community can be represented, is if someone runs in that zone. Mr. Kelly stated that is correct. Commissioner Tumey asked Mr. Kelly when Arkansas State Statue §6-61-529 goes into effect. Mr. Kelly stated that the legislature adopted a law in 1995 and amended it in 2001 requiring community college

boards with districts that have ten percent (10%) minority population or greater to elect board members from individual zones. Chairman Brown asked for a map. Mr. Hall stated that the college has asked Benton County's Geographic Information Systems Department to make an adjustment to the boundary between Zone D1 and Zone D2 in order to keep the district lines to more closely follow the lines of subdivisions in the areas being changed.

Chairman Brown asked Mr. Hall when filing ended. Mr. Hall confirmed that filing ended on August 17, 2012 at noon and that the college has nine (9) trustees, which three (3) will not seek re-election. Those members are Alex Vasquez, Mark Lundy, and Joan Clifford. The district drew the zone boundaries to have the six (6) remaining members, Randy Lawson, Johnny Haney, Mike Shupe, Joe Spivey, Ric Clifford, and Hadley Hindmarsh in separate zones. Mr. Hall stated the board members will serve six-year terms with the elections to be staggered and three members elected every two years. Mr. Hall stated that after the initial election of all nine (9) members in November, those elected will draw lots in January to determine who initially serves a two, four, or six-year term beginning in 2013. Mr. Hall said that there are four (4) board of trustees elected in Arkansas; Northwest Arkansas Community College, Rich Mountain Community College in Mena, AR, National Park Community College in Hot Springs, AR, and North Park Community College in Harrison, AR.

Chairman Brown asked for comments. With no comments, Chairman Brown made a motion to approve the resolution to divide the Northwest Arkansas Community College District into nine (9) single member zones, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone. Motion carried by voice vote.

- B. Order to approve the Certification of Logic & Accuracy Testing Results for the City of Siloam Springs Primary and City of Springdale Special Elections, to be held August 14, 2012: Chairman Brown stated that he has reviewed and approved the L&A Testing for the City of Siloam Springs Primary and City of Springdale Special Elections. Chairman Brown signed the order.
- C. Notice of Ballot Draw for the General Election to be held November 6, 2012: Chairman Brown stated that August 17, 2012 at 5:00 P.M. would be the date and time for the ballot draw for the General Election to be held November 6, 2012. Chairman Brown made a motion to set August 17, 2012 at 5:00 P.M. for the General Election Ballot Draw. Motion carried by voice vote.

Old Business:

None

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment:

Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell J. Anzalone, Secretary
Prepared by Sharon Rose
Benton County Election Commission